

REMARKS

Claims 11-16 and 20-28 are the only claims pending. Claim 12 has been amended from the original preliminary amendment filed on March 2, 2004 to exclude a water-soluble or water swellable polymer that is a gel. Support for this amendment can be found on page 1, paragraph 3 of the specification.

Claims 1-11 and 17-19 are cancelled.

The newly added claim 22 is supported by original claim 12 and further requires that the ultraviolet initiator is applied to the surface of the formed polymer and allowed to coat the surface of the polymer particles and then subjecting the polymer to ultraviolet radiation. Basis for this amendment can be found on page 10, first full paragraph.

Newly added claim 23 requires that the ultraviolet initiator is absorbed into the polymer before being subjected to irradiation by ultraviolet light. Basis for this claim can be found on page 10, first full paragraph.

Newly added claims 24-27 are respectively supported by original claims 13-16. Support may also be found for claim 24, page 10, second full paragraph and claims 25-27, all of page 11.

Newly added claim 28 is supported on page 7, second paragraph of the specification.

No new matter has been added.

Applicants aver that the claims 11-16 and 20-27 are now in better form for examination. An Action on the merits of the claims is respectfully awaited. In the event that minor amendments will further prosecution, applicants request that the examiner contact the undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,



Shiela A. Loggins
Agent for Applicants
Reg. No. 56,221

Ciba Specialty Chemicals Corporation
Patent Department
540 White Plains Road
P.O. Box 2005
Tarrytown, NY 10591-9005
(914) 785-2768
SAL\21923_DIV_spa.doc

JAN 12 2005